

Arney Family

1-4-2011

~~1-4-2011~~

January 3, 2011

Vigo County Public Library
Special Collections - Genealogy
One Library Square
Terre Haute, IN 47807

Dear Library Staff:

I have enclosed a xerox copy of a letter written by Della (Arney) Fiscus in 1948 regarding the history of her Arney family and my transcription of that letter. Members of this family lived in Owen and Vigo Counties. It contains some valuable information regarding her grandparents, Lawrence and Louisa (Crouse) Arney.

I have been advised by other Arney researchers that the original copy of this letter was available in your library many years ago. Recent inquiries indicated that the letter was no longer there.

I was able to track down a xerox copy of the letter from another researcher and offer it for your files again.

Sincerely,



Dianne Dayhuff
1256 N. Shea Ests.
Solsberry, IN 47459

email: dianned_47@hotmail.com

1-4-2011

"Worthington, Ind.

1/25/48

Dear Cousin,

Please pardon me Guy(?), for delaying so long. Wm. been sick since May & I just can't get settle to writing. I'll tell you a little I know.

Grand Dad Arney as we called him was married three times. [His] first wifes name was Becky as I rem[ember]. His second Ruth Owen and third ^ Eliza Crouse my Father Cary Arney's mother. He was the father of 18 children. 2 with first, 12 second & 4 third. Your Mother was of the third family I think ^ Ruth Owen Arney.

Henry Arney's wife name was Ann ^ Fry(?) I think John Laurence Arneys Mother. They had nine children lost them all but John Laurence Uncle Henry too with a dreadful flucks* disease. He sure was ancestor of ours. Will try some more to find the date. He Henry Arney settled here in 1821. We got the history of Greene Co. & 1821 is right, instead of 1820.

Bill Arney & Sally Irvin Grand Dad's boy and Granny's girl was married before Granny and G. Dad were. They lived near us on the hill in a field called the old Bill Field. They all died with this old Flucks* disease as I rem[ember] hearing them say.

Granny Crouse Irvin had 7 children when they were married. Grand Dad & Granny. Grand Dad was 84 at death and Granny 82.

We looked up the Owens family. John Owens, Ephraim Owens and Benjamin were brothers all settled here in 1821. Benjamin bought a farm in 1816 he must to come earlier than the others. John was the first co. treasurer and Ephraim the third school teacher.

Justice of the Peace William Clark married all these couples in 1822. Celia Arney & Samuel Dyer, Obediah Winters & Hannah Duncan. These were the first weddings. We found nothing about Tom(?) Clark.

Guy this is a terrible mixed up letter of information. You will have to study it like starting to school. Writing at different times. I was sorry we didn't get to the reunion last year. I do enjoy them so much & seeing all the folks again. Hope we can have one this year. I have arthritis so bad in one arm & hands can hardly write at all. Seems as we grow in years we have so many troubles, don't we?

Come see us we can talk better than write. Glad to give you just a little information. Grand Dad told us kids so much about his family. Loads of love to you & wife.

Della Fiscus & Wm."

Note: This is a transcription of a letter written by Della (Arney) Fiscus in 1948. My copy was a xerox copy provided by another researcher. The original letter was seen by other researchers years ago in the Vigo County Library in Terre Haute. Recent inquiries to the library to check the Arney and Fiscus family files indicate that the original letter is not in those files. Some of the handwriting was hard to read and I have tried to be as accurate as possible in transcribing what was written. Some punctuation has been added for clarity. In several places, the writer used ditto marks and I believe her intent was to "ditto" the word directly above the mark.

* Fluck's disease is probably flux, a form of dysentery common in the 19th C. which had several causes and was often fatal.

settled here in 1821.
 Benjamin bought a farm in
 1816 he must to come earlier
 than the others.
 John was the first Co. treasurer.
 Ephraim the third
 school teacher.

Justice of the Peace
 William Clark, married
 all these couples in 1822
 Celia Arney & Samuel Boyer
 & Bediah Winters &
 Hannah Duncan. There
 were the first weddings;
 we found nothing about Tom Clark.

Dear Cousin, Worthington and
 Please pardon 1-24/48
 me Guy, for delaying so long.
 I've been sick since May 6 &
 just can't get settle to writing.
 I'll tell you a little I know.
 Grand Dad Arney as we called
 him, was married three times.
 " first wife's name was Becky
 or I rem. his second Ruth Owen A.
 third ^{Elijah's} ^{Arney} ^{mother} " Cory" Arney.
 he was the " of 18 children.
 2 with, first, 12 second & 4 third
 your Mother was of the third family
 I think? ^{Ruth Owen Arney} Henry Arney's wife name
 was Ann. ^{John} ^{Arney} Laurence Arney
 mother; they had nine children
 lost them all but John Laurence
 Uncle Henry too with a dreadful

Gay this is a terrible
mixed up letter of information
you will have to study in
like starting to school.

writing at different times.
I can say we didn't
get to the reunion last year
I do enjoy them so much &
seeing all the folks again
hope we can have one this
year. I have written so bad
in my arms & hands can
hardly write at all.

seems as we grow in years
we have so many troubles
don't we?

Come see us we could
talk better than write.
glad to give you just a little
information. Grand Dad told us
lots so much about his family.
Loads of love to your wife

Della Jones & Son

flunks disease. he sure
was ancestor of ours. will
try some more to find the
date. he Henry ^{arrived} settled here in
1821. we got the history of Green Co
& 1821 in right, instead of 1820.
Bill Coney & Sally Green Grand
Dad's boy & Grand girl were
married before " & G. Dad were
they lived near us on the Hill
in a field called the old Bill
Field. They all died with this
old flunks disease or I rec^{hearing}
Grandma Green had 7 ^{than say}
children when they were
married. Grand Dad & Grand
Grand Dad was 84 at death
Grand 82.

We looked up the Green's family.
John Green, Ephraim Green &
Benjamin were brothers all

Nancy Sherrill

From: David Lewis
Sent: Monday, December 20, 2010 1:54 PM
To: Nancy Sherrill
Subject: FW: William Arney Family, Owen Co., IN
Attachments: DellaArneyLetter1.jpg; DellaArneyLetter2.jpg; DellaArneyLetter3.jpg; DellaArneyLetter4.jpg

From: sidandjoan@verizon.net [mailto:sidandjoan@verizon.net]
Sent: Friday, December 17, 2010 9:09 AM
To: David Lewis
Subject: Fwd: William Arney Family, Owen Co., IN

You were kind enough five years ago to search the Arney file at VCPL in search of a letter by Della Arney Fiscus describing the marriages of Laurence Arney to Louisa Crouse Irvin and their children, William Arney and Sarah Irvin. This is an important document in my family, as it establishes that the William Arney who married Sarah Irvin was descended from Laurance Arney, not Andrew Arney. A copy of the letter has recently come to light from another researcher in Indiana, so I am forwarding it to you for your files. At some point the original was apparently in your collection, so you may get additional inquiries in the future.

I am grateful for the effort you made to locate the original letter.

Joan Morris

----- Forwarded message -----
From: Dianne Dayhuff <dianned_47@hotmail.com>
Date: Dec 15, 2010
Subject: William Arney Family
To: Joan Morris <sidandjoan@verizon.net>

Hello Joan,

Guess what I found! The Della Arney Fiscus letter! Bob and I met with Gary Ault at the Spencer Library yesterday to go over some pictures and research and he had a copy of the letter. Now that I have read it, I can understand why you wanted it. Gary is a descendant of Nancy Irwin whose mother was Eliza Crouse Irwin, Carey Arney's mother. We started talking about William Arney and Gary is a very enthusiastic researcher and he found a posting by Phyllis Chen today and now they have a big conversation going so I don't know where this all will lead. Hopefully toward some answers but I don't think Phyllis Chen knows much.

Anyhow, I could not wait to share this letter with you. I knew someone out there had to have a copy of it. Stay tuned - this coming year could be a productive one for your family history!

Dianne Dayhuff

12/20/2010

Dear Cousin, Worthington and
Please pardon 1-24/48
me Guy, for delaying so long.
I've been sick since May & I
just can't get settle to writing.
I'll tell you a little I know.
Grand Dad Arney as we called
him, was married three times.
" first wife's name was Becky
or I rem. his second Ruth Owen A.
third ^{Elijah's} ^{crone} Father Gary Arney. ^{another}
he was the " of 18 children
2 with first, 12 second & 4 third
your Mother was of the third family
I think. ^{Ruth over Arney} Henry Arney's wife name
was a M. ^{very} ^{of} ^{third} John Lawrence Arney
Mother; they had nine children
lost them all but John Lawrence
Nuck Henry too with a dreadful

3

fluicks disease. he sure
was ancestor of ours. will
try some more to find the
date. he Henry ^{army} settled here in
1821. we got the history of Green-co
& 1821 in right, instead of 1828.
Bill Grney & Sally Irwin Grand
Dads boy & Granny girl were
married before " & G. Dad were
they bred near us on the Hill
in a field called the old Bill
Field. They all died with this
old fluicks disease or I recall ^{hearing}
Granny Irwin had 7 ^{than} ^{day}
children when they were
married. Grand Dad & Granny
Grand Dad was 84 at death
Granny 82.

We looked up the Owen's family.
John Owen, Ephraim Owens &
Benjamin were brothers all

settled here in 1821.

Benjamin bought a farm in 1816 he must to come earlier than the others.

John was the first Co. treasurer.

Ephraim the third school teacher.

Justice of the Peace

William Clark, married

all these couples in 1822

Celia Coney, & Samuel Dyer

Abeliah Winters &

Hannah Duncan These were the first weddings; we found nothing about John Clark.

Guy this is a terrible.
 mixed up letter of information
 you will have to study in
 like starting to school.
 writing at different times.

I was sorry we didn't
 get to the reunion last year
 I do enjoy them so much &
 seeing all the folks again
 hope we can have one this
 year. I have rewritten so bad
 in my arms & hands can
 hardly write at all.

seems as we grow in years
 we have so many troubles
 don't we?

Come see us we could
 talk better than write.

glad to give you just a little
 information. Grand Dad told us
 kids so much about his family.

Loads of love to Gen & wife

Della Jones & Son

*Copied from "The Churches of Christ in Owen County, Indiana."
by A. T. DeGroot
written about 1936*

Henry Arney, Sr., Henry Arney, Jr., Adam Fiscus and Hieronymous Speas came to Jefferson Township, in the year 1820. Frederick Fiscus came in 1821. Frederick Hauser and Andrew Arney, in 1822. These with their families were the first settlers in what is now Jefferson Township, and were located not far from where Lick Creek enters Eel River. Almost immediately after the arrival of those who came 1822, Charles Inman, who lived near where Point Commerce now stands, commenced preaching at their cabins, sometimes he visiting and preaching for them, and they sometimes attending at his house. Owing to the unhealthy location of the settlement, the most of them left their first improvements, in 1824, and located farther north and east, getting out on the ridges. In 1825, Abraham Kern, of Lawrence County, visited the scattering settlers, and held a meeting at the house of Henry Arney, Sr., who had entered the land and built a cabin where Jacob Norris now lives, near the village of Middletown. During this meeting the church was organized by the selection of Obadiah Winters and John Arney as Elders, and Charles Inman and Andrew Arney as Deacons. At the close of the meeting they numbered about thirty members, gathered from the three settlements, viz.: Point Commerce, Lick Creek, and Bethel, the distance between the extreme settlements, on a bee line, being about nine miles, and by their blazed paths about twelve. In their organization they agreed to take the New Testament as their only rule of faith and practice, and to be known only by the name of Christian.

They at first taught and practiced trine immersion, night communion, and feet washing. About 1830, they built a large hewed-log house of worship, a short distance from where the present church edifice stands. It was a long, low building, with a door about the middle of one side, and the pulpit opposite the door, and a large stone chimney with huge, open-mouthed fire-places in each end of the room. Near by they erected another and smaller log building, which was known as the cook house. Here during protracted meetings, at a huge fire-place, they cooked their provisions and had all things in common.

Perhaps about the year 1831 or 1832, Elder Kern came again and preached one baptism. This preaching produced a great commotion in the little community, and their searching the Scriptures continued with unabated interest for a few months, when at a visit of Elder J. M. Mathes, and perhaps some others, the first persons among them were baptized by one immersion.

After a few months, and perhaps at a visit to the church by Elder Michael Combs, the subject of feet-washing and night communion began to be agitated among them, and continued until a majority resolved to discontinue both.

Several of their members, however, withdrew from them, and they shortly after removed in a body to Iowa. The congregation continued to prosper, so that within ten years from the date of its organization among its numbers were five who were giving a portion of time to the preaching of the Word, viz.: Obadiah Winters, Thomas Winters, Frederick Hauser, Elijah Reagan, and John F. Conrad. Not far from the year 1840, that part of the congregation in the Lick Creek neighborhood, owing to the distance from the place of worship, with the consent of all parties, withdrew from the Bethel congregation

and organized in the western part of the township, calling their organization Bethsaida.

The Bethsaida congregation is an offshoot of the Bethel Church, and was organized as early as the year 1840. According to the best information obtainable, a few members who belonged to Bethel met at the dwellings of William Boyles and Willaim Winters to worship, and attend to the ordinances of the Lord's house, Obadiah Winters acting as Elder; this was perhaps as early as the year 1832. About eight years later, they united their efforts in the construction of a hewed-log building, 22x26 feet in size, which was used as a place of worship for twenty-seven or twenty-eight years. At the building of the house, the organization was more permanently effected, and Thomas Winters was chosen as Elder. During the early history of the church, the brethren were visited by Elders Abraham Kern and Elijah Reagan, who preached at intervals for a number of years.

The following is a list of the charter members, as given by one who became identified with the church about the time the house was erected: Obadiah Winters, Hannah Winters, Thomas Winters, Elizabeth Winters, William Boyles, Hannah Boyles, William Winters, Elijah Reagan, Sarah Reagan, Robert Middleton, Anna Middleton, Abijah Hubbell, Mrs. Hubbell, Aaron Hubbell, Rebecca Hubbell, Joshua Duncan, Charlotte Duncan, Jesse Reagan, Phebe Reagan, Oliver Hubbell, Delila Hubbell, Charles Middleton, and Mary Middleton.

A new frame house of worship was erected in the year 1868. It stands in the western part of the township, on the farm originally owed by Cairra Boyles, and represents a capital of about \$1,400.

The church is in good condition at the present time, with a membetship of 106...Sunday School is maintained through the greater part of the year, with an average attendance of about forty scholars.

BETHSAIDA

The charter members are listed in the historical sketch on Bethsaida. The following list is made from the only remaining record book.

Eli Auman--Letter, April, 1901; Hannah Auman--Letter, April, 1901; Geo. Auman.

J. W. Blackketter; Mariah J. Blackketter; Pearl Blackketter; Ethel Blackketter (Defoe); Charley Blackketter; Ora A. Blackketter (Clark); Cora D. Blackketter; Roy Barnes; Charley Bivins; Isaac Bivins; Lillie Burger; Willie Bivins; Cathrine Bickerton; Beulah Blackketter; Emery Barrick; Fay Blackketter; Della Broadstreet; Howard Burger; Earnest Bush, Harvey Burger; Gladys Burger; Bertha Burger; Hazel Blackketter; Ralph Bucklew; Wm. Bucklew; Lena Bucklew; Violet Bucklew; Mary Bucklew; Charlie Bucklew; Myrtle Bucklew.

Polly Clark; Nerva Clark (Wall); Dellie Clark (Sinders); Ellen L. Clark; Jessie Chittedon; Electa Collenbaugh (Barrak); Fred Cutlar; Amy Clark (Reagan); Stella Collenbaugh; Cletus Collenbaugh; Mrs. Don Collenbaugh; Otto Collenbaugh; Myrtle Collenbaugh; Richard Collenbaugh.

Walter Dyar; Dessie Dyar; Irene Dyar; Ida M. Davis; H. A. Daggett; O. L. Duncan; Mary E. Duncan; Atha S. Dundan; Alta R. Duncan (Bolton); Edith Duncan; Mary A. Duncan; May Duncan; Cora Duncan; Hazel Duncan; Frank Duncan; Amos Duncan; Sarah Duncan; Sarah Duncan; Benson Duncan; John Duncan; W. V. Duncan; Harold Duncan; Nella Duncan; Mrs. Doss Duncan; Drusilla Duncan; Doss Duncan; Gracie Duncan; Jiles Duncan; Lester Duncan; Rassie Duncan; Dora Duncan; Emil Duncan; George Duncan.

Ruth Ellmore; Bertha Edmonson; Zella Ellis.

Sarah Fulk; Matilda J. Fulk; Frank Fulk; Davis Fulk; George Fulk; Charley Fulk; Allie Fulk; Cathrine Fulk; Matilda Fiscus; Solomon Fiscus;

Mary Fiscus; Merrit Fiscus; C. J. Foraker (Daggett); Ona D. Foraker; (Hubbell); Martie Fiscus; Wesley Fry; Polly Forbis; B. F. Frump; Alice Frump; J. R. Frump. Minnie Fogle (Dyar); Claud Foraker; Mrs. Charley Fulk; Alla Fulk; Delbert Fulk; Bessie Fulk; Luella Fulk; Pauline Fulk.

Emma J. Griffith; Isabell Gard; L. J. Grøffith (Nauglebaugh); Calvin Griffith; Bessie Griffith--Died 1906; Glennie Griffith (Bucklew); Ona Grøffith; Davy Gerber; Christopher Gerber; Nella Gerber; Orlan Griffith; Arthur Griffith; Paul Griffith; Claude Griffith.

Nancy Holiday; May Hubbell; Perry Hubbell; Flossie Hubbell; Ida Hubbell (Brown); Zilpha Holiday; Mary Horn; Mary Hunter; Mary Herod; Anna Haden; Alice Holmes; James W. Hochstetler; Mary L. Hochstetler; Birt Hochstetler; Ettie Hubbell (Pagett); Hullett (mother) Hullet (daughter); Nelson Hubble; Mable Herstine; Peoria Hubbell; Ray Herstine.

Charles Inman; Cinda Inman; W. A. Inman; Emma Inman; David Inman; Mary Inman; Bessie Inman (Harbaugh) Pearl Inman (Duncan); Ed. Inman; Irene Inman; Mabel Inman.

Flora Knoy.

Jacob Loveall; Lucinda Loveall; Harve Loveall; Sadie Loveall; Emma Loveall.

J. J. Miller; Mary F. Miller; Mary Møller; Nelson Martin; William Miser; Enerine McIntosh--Died Sept. 10, 1907; Mollie Miser; Grover Miser; Alma Miser; Mrs. Dan Miser; Dan Miser; Raymond Miser.

B. F. Need; Rosetta Need; Abel Need; Iva Needy (Bond); Ruth Needy; Kenneth Needy.

Ella Ownes.

Leon Price--Died Jan. 5, 1903; Frank Price; Elizabeth Price; Jacob Pollard; Aaron Pollard; Manda Pollard--Died Feb., 1905; Minnie Pershing (Miser); Albert Price; Geneva Powell; Ettie Price (Bucklew); Raymond Price; Ethel Powel; Walter Powell; Emma Price; Fern Powell; Nora Price; Myrtle Price (Smith); Grace Powell; Hazel Pottman; Lloyd Padgett; Jessie Price; Leo Price; Mrs. Phipps; Tom Pittman; Ruby Pittman; Fern Pittman; Ola Pottman; Marcella Padgett; Ivan Padgett; Wilma Padgett; Alice Padgett.

D. H. Reagan; Polla Reagan; James D. Regan; A. J. Reagan; Clara Reagan--Died 1908; Ferd Reagan; W. L. Reagan; Bettie Geagan; Charley Reagan; Jennie Reagan (Padgett); Laura Reagan; Jessie Reagan; Isabel Rea; Mary Rea; Ethel Rea; J. R. Roberts; Clara Reese; Laura Reagan; Retta Russell; Ola Ray; Sanders Reagan; Ralph Reagan.

Andrew Sindors; Mrs. Sindors--Died Jan. 29, 1902; Phebe Sindors; Herman Sindors; Charley Sindors; H. A. Stantz; Matilda J. Stantz; Guy Stantz; Annie Stevens; Mammie Stantz (Knay); Mrs. Stevens; Polly Shouse; Mandy Shouse; Alice Shouse; Lowell Shouse; Mary A. Shouse; Harold Shouse; Mary Stonebrook; Blanche Shouse; Henry Stonebrook; Wm. Slough; Florence Shouse; Josie Slough (Slough); Della Shouse; Lew Sindors; Otto Shouse; Ann Slough--Died 1910; Mrs. Otto Shouse; Opal Stantz; Belle Shuler; Marcus Sindors; Myrtle Slough; Vernie Slough; Christiana Stantz; Julia Stantz; Bessie Sindors.

Lucy Trump; Mary Turly; Katie B. Tousey (Robb); Miss Turley; Goldie Trent.

Pierce Vanhorn; Alice Vanhorn.

J. K. Wells--Died Sept. 5, 1912; Sallie Wells; Wm. Waggoner (Waggoner); Ella Waggoner; Moses Winklepleck; Eva J. Winklepleck; Ellen Winters; Flora Welcher; Leo J. Wells; Nester Wells; Rachel Wall--Died Dec. 19, 1907; Samuel Wall; Stella Wagner (Griffith); Blaine Wells; Lois Walls; Kate Wells; Fred Walls; Flora Wall (White); Paul Edward Wells; Nora H. Wells; Ernest Wagoner; Florence Wagoner; Ruth Wagoner (Duncan); Oral Wells; Mabel Wells; Hazel Waggoner; Mrs. Frank Wrestling; Irene Wells.

Benj. Yancy.

NOTES REGARDING THE HISTORY OF THE ARNEY FAMILY

by CURTIS ARNEY

CORNLAND, ILL.

The first permanent white settlement within the present boundaries of Jefferson township, Owen County, Indiana, was made about the year 1820, along Eel River in the southwest corner of the township by immigrants from North Carolina. In the year 1818, Adam Fiscus, a native of North Carolina made a tour of inspection through Owen and Greene counties for the purpose of selecting a sight for a settlement, and being pleased with the locality mentioned on account of the fertile soil, he determin-ed to make it the objective point for a number of families who were desirous of leaving their native state. After marking his claim, he returned to his native home and in the following fall, in company with several of his neighbors, he started for the new country. They did not reach their destination that season. However, on account of stormy weather and stopped during the winter on Blue River, in the southern part of the state. The next spring the little band of home seekers loaded their few household goods on their clumsy wagons and after several weeks of traveling through almost impenetrable forest and across streams swollen to over flowing by the rains succeeded in reaching the spot which Fiscus had visited the year previous. Hastily improving rude temporary shelters the pioneers went to work and erected cabins around which small patches of ground were cleared and planted. The names of the early pioneers as far as known were: Adam Fiscus, Henry Arney, Sr., Henry Arney, Jr., Hieronymous Speas, William Boyles, and John Stokley.

William Winters and his son Obadih, afterward a preacher of the Christian Church came a little later, and settled in the same neighborhood. They were North Carolinians also, but moved from Greene County, Indiana, where they had been living during the previous two years. In 1821 the little community was increased by the arrival of Fredric and George Hauser, the first of whom settled on Lick Creek, the latter taking the claim near the central part of the township.

Andrew Arney and Peter Speas came in 1822, and located in Eel River settlement. In 1823-24 Adam Fiscus sold his improvements to Obadih Winters and moved to the northwestern part of the township, near the present site of the village of Arney, where he entered land on which his son Adam, Jr., lived. Henry Arney died in the year of 1822, his death being among the first events of the kind that occurred in the township. His sons Henry, Andrew, John, and Laurence became prominent citizens. Laurence was the last one living in the township. The above named pioneers with their respective families were the first settlers of Jefferson Township.

Later came Frederick Fiscus, a brother-in-law of Adam Fiscus. He settled near the Bethel Church as early as the year 1825, and was the first black smith in the township. His brothers Peter and Henry came sometime later and settled not far from the village of Arney.

Joseph Cooper and his brother Daniel settled in the western part of the township prior to the year 1826 and about the same time came Jacob Mowry and settled where John Fiscus lived near Eel River. Prior to the year 1830 the following settlers additional to those enumerated became residents of the township: John Hilsabeck, Jonathan Adams, John Fulk, Daniel Moser, G. M. Thatcher, and Wm. Price.

The first mill in the township was erected by Adam Fiscus as early as the year 1824, and stood near the village of Arney. It was a small log structure operated by horse power, and did all the grinding for the entire neighborhood for a period of seven or eight years. It stood for about 15 years. The first steam mill in the township was built about the year 1858 or 59 at Arney. It was erected by John Curry. He did a good business for about two years, then the building caught fire and burned to the ground.

The first burial place in Jefferson township was laid out on the land of Henry Arney, in Eel River settlement as early as the year 1822. Among the first persons buried in this cemetery were Henry Arney, Sr., Mrs. Laurence Arney, Mrs. Catherine Hubbell, and several children whose names were not learned. The second graveyard was laid out on the Frederick Fiscus land about one half mile from the Bethel Church in the northern part of the township. Here were laid to rest in an early day a child of George Hauser, Mrs. Elijah Moser, Elijah Bass, and a child of John Arney. The Bethel graveyard was set apart for the burial of the dead as early as 1825 and probably a little earlier. The first interment here was Mrs. Henry Arney. Other early burials were Mrs. Laurence Arney, Mrs. Spenshoward, Mrs. Mary Fulk, Noah Arney and others. Laurence Arney was married three times and had eleven children.

Bethel Christian Church is one of the oldest religious organizations in the county. Henry Arney, Sr., Henry Arney, Jr., Adam Fiscus, Hieronymous Speas came to Jefferson township in the year 1820. Frederick Fiscus came in 1821. Frederick Hauser and Andrew Arney in 1822. These with their families were the first settlers in what is now Jefferson township and were located not far from where Lick Creek enters Eel River. Almost immediately after the arrival of those who came in 1822 Charles Inman who lived near where point commerce now stands, commenced preaching at their cabins. Sometimes, he visiting and preaching for them, and they sometimes attending at his

home. Owing to the unhealthy location of the settlement, the most of them left their first improvements, in 1824, and located farther north and east, getting out on the ridges. In 1825 Abraham Kern of Lawrence County visited the scattering settlers and held a meeting at the house of Henry Arney, Sr., and who entered the land and built a cabin where what is known as the Jacob Norris place, near the village of Arney.

During this meeting a church was organized by the selection of Obidiah Winters and John Arney as elders and Charles Inman and Andrew Arney as deacons. At the close of the meeting they numbered about 30 members, gathered from the three settlements: Point Commerce, Lick Creek and Bethel. The distance between the extreme settlements on a bee line being about 9 miles, and by their blazed paths about 12 miles. In their organization they **agreed** to take the New Testament as their only rule of faith and practice and to be known only by the name of Christian.

They at first taught and practiced trine immersion, night communion, and feet washing. About 1830, they built a large hewd house of worship, a short distance from where the present church adifice stands. It was a long low building with a door about the middle of one side and a pulpit opposite the door, and a large stone chiminey with a huge open mouth fireplace in each end of the room. Nearby they erected another small log building which was known as the cook house. Here during protracted meetings, at a huge fireplace, they cooked their provisions and had all things in common.

Perhaps about the year 1831 or 1832 Edler Kern came again and preached one baptism. This preaching produced a great commotion in the little community and their searching the Scripture continued with unabated interest for a few months. When at a visit of Elder J. M. Mathes and perhaps some others, the first persons among them were baptised by one immersion. After a few months, and perhaps at a visit to the church by Elder Micheal Combs, the subject of feet washing and night communion began to be agitated among them and continued until a majority resolved to discontinue both.

Several of their members, however, withdrew from them and they shortly after removed in a body to Iowa. The congregation continued to prosper, so that within ten years from the date of organization among its numbers were five, who were giving a portion of time to the preaching the word; Obidiah Winters, Thomas Winters, Frederick Hauser, Elijah Reagan and John F. Conrad. Not far from the year 1840, that part of the congregation in Lick Creek neighborhood, owing to the distance from the place of worship, with the consent of all parties withdrew from the Bethel Congregation and organized in the western part of the township calling their organization Bethsadia.

Those who went to Iowa organized a congregation retaining their practice of feet washing and night communion. Others afterwards went to the same country and organized after the practice of the mother church. Still others had recently organized in Western Iowa. From the preaching of those who went out from Bethel, the organization at Lancaster was first commenced. About the year 1862 a large frame house was erected and was occupied until about Aug. 1875, when it was burned. In a few weeks another occupying the same spot was ready for use.

The whole number who had a membership from the beginning to the present was 677. The membership, later, being 176. Those who had filled a position of elders from the beginning are Obidiah Winters, John Arney, Frederick Hauser, Joseph Greenwood, Robert Rice, Emanuel Fulk, Hiram I. Speas, John A. V. Fiscus, Jessie J. Aley, David A. Benjamin, and John A. Fulk; --deacons, Andrew Arney, Charles Inman, Henry Fiscus, Solomon Fiscus, John A. Fiscus, James McKee, Burgess Childress, Jesse Hon, Westly Fiscus, Henderson Fiscus, Elias Fiscus, Nelson Hon, Solomon Fiscus, Jr., Jacob E. Fiscus, and Eli Long.

The following are the names of ministers who have preached regularly for the church since its organization--Obidiah Winters, Frederick Hauser, John F. Conrad, Robert Rice, Jessie McCoy, Joel Dillion, Thomas Wiles, William Littell, A. C. Fiscus, and E. H. Floyd.

We have been moderately curious as to the motive which set journeying hither so many from the far-off State of North Carolina. Most of the emigrants had not reached life's meridian. They were young, hopeful, courageous--poor in finances, but rich in possibilities. A fat soil ready for the plow and temperate climate were not peculiar to Indiana or Jefferson Township. Not a few of the pioneers have left their record that they sought homes here because the country would not be blemished by negro slavery and class distinctions. They were an honest, hard-working class of people, but right nobly did they do their duty in laying the foundation for the civilization which today is the boast of their posterity. The inquisitorial list of questions in the Assessor's blanks prepared in the early history of the State is inferential evidence as to the conditions of the early Indiana homes. A few articles of household furniture, a cow, a couple of pigs and perchance a horse, together with the rude farming implements and wagon, all of which would aggregate but few dollars, would form the sum total of taxable personal property. We have seen tax receipts of those relatively far-off days in which the taxes on 160 acres of land were only \$1.20, and these receipts were given to the early settlers of Jefferson and its sister townships.

The wages of a stout, willing boy was a "bit" a day during summer, and a good harvest hand was paid as high as a half dollar, or the exact price of a pound of coffee. "Hired girls" were not a class; in case of illness, some young woman would leave home for a few days to care for the afflicted household, but her services were not rendered for the pay she received. The discharge of the sacred duty, to care for the sick, was the motive, and it was never neglected. The accepted life of a woman was to marry, bear and rear children, and prepare the household food, spin, weave and make garments for the family. Her whole life was the grand simple poem of rugged, toilsome duty, bravely and uncomplainingly done. Some of these cheerful dames still live, and seem to regret times that will never come again. One of them says that the floor of her cabin was so uneven that she placed rude wedges under her table legs to keep it steady, and when rain fell, the water which came down the chimney formed a pool in the depression called a hearth, and she bailed the water out with a skillet. Another boasts the fact that she wove over a thousand yards of woolen and linen fabrics, and still displays, with pride, bed spreads and other articles, which, for neatness of finish and durability cannot be excelled by the fruit of the modern loom.

During the first two years of their sojourn, the settlers on Eel River obtained all their marketing from New Albany, more than 100 miles distant. To make a trip there required several days, and sometimes, when the streams were full, it required a much longer time.

Two or three persons would generally do the hauling for the entire neighborhood, and take such produce as the country afforded, i. e., venison, hams, feathers, beeswax, and in later years wheat and pork. In return for these articles, the traders would receive sugar, coffee and other groceries and occasionally a few yards of calico. The most of the wearing apparel, however, was manufactured at home, and consisted of jeans, wollen, and linen. Some of the settlers wore clothing made of deer skins, and manufactured their own shoes from deer and hog skins, tanned in large troughs.

When the first settlers made their appearance there was an Indian village not far from the site of Coal City. The Indians while not hostile, caused the pioneers a great deal of annoyance by their persistent begging, and when favorable opportunities presented themselves they did scruple to drive away pigs and calves and steal any article on which they could lay their hands.